Current Affairs (2023): Polity & Governance At a Glance

✴ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the New Parliament building on **28th May 2023.** With **888 seats**, it will accommodate nearly three times the current capacity.

✴ The Parliament recently passed three pivotal Bills: **Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, 2023; Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita, 2023;** and **Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023.**

✴ The **Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty–Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023** has been unanimously passed from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The Bill seeks to reserve **one–third of the total number of seats in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for Women.**

✴ The **Rajya Sabha** recently approved the **Chief Election Commissioner** and **Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023,** which outlines the procedures for appointing the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and **Election Commissioners (EC).**

✴ Recently, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha passed the **Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023.** The bill expands the scope of the law from censorship to also cover copyright and introduces stringent Anti–Piracy provisions.

✴ **Highlighted Supreme Court's Verdict**

✴ The Supreme Court (SC) held that **charge sheets are not public documents** and their free public access violates the provisions of the Criminal Code of Procedure (CrPC).

✴ The Chief Justice of India recently **denied permission for forum shopping** to a litigant appearing before him. Forum shopping is defined as when litigants or lawyers deliberately try to move their case to a particular Judge or Court expecting that this would turn the judgement in their favor.

✴ The Supreme Court recently upheld the 2017 amendments made by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra Governments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, **allowing Jallikattu and Kambala, and bullock–cart racing respectively.**

✴ The Supreme Court recently held that **Section 106 of the Evidence Act** does not inherently impose a burden on the accused but comes into play when the accused fails to provide any explanation regarding facts that could support theories compatible with their innocence.

✴ The Supreme Court upheld the 2019 **revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370;** validated the Union Government's decision to revoke the special status of J&K under Article 370, emphasizing that the state had no internal Sovereignty.

✴ Supreme Court has delivered its **long–awaited verdict rejecting petitions to Legalize Same–Sex Marriage** and delved deeper on the provisions of the **Special Marriage Act, 1954** to examine the issue thoroughly, which have convergence and interrelationship with **Homosexuality.**

✴ **Assembly Elections 2023–** BJP emerged victorious in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh, dealing a substantial blow to the Congress and consolidating its control in the Hindi heartland; Congress emerged victorious in Telangana.

✴ **Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) Portal**

✴ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) recently launched the Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) portal under the IT Rules, 2021.

✴ This portal will allow users to appeal online to the Government against decisions taken by social media platforms to take down or retain content posted by users.

✴ **Bihar Assembly** unanimously passed a bill to **Elevate Reservation Quotas in Educational Institutions and Government Jobs** for various communities.

The overall reservation quota for SCs, STs, EBCs and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) has been raised from 50% to 65%.

✴ The **Government of India** and **Government of Manipur** signed a **Peace Agreement with United National Liberation Front (UNLF)** which is oldest valley–based insurgent group of Manipur.

✴ **Inter–Operable Criminal Justice System**

✴ To ensure the timely disposal of criminal cases, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) e–prosecution portal (part of the **Inter–Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** has added a new feature that will also fix the accountability of Government lawyers.

✴ It was conceptualized by the **E–Committee of Supreme Court** to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system, like courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories, from one platform.

✴ **Four Women Parliamentarians Appointed to the Panel of Vice–Chairpersons**

✴ The Rajya Sabha Chairman appointed four women MP's namely, **PT Usha, Phangnon Konyak, Fauzia Khan and Sulata Deo** (all first–time members of the Rajya Sabha) to the panel of Vice–Chairpersons with the aim to ensure gender parity.

✴ This is the first time in the history of the Upper House that equal representation has been given to women members in the panel of Vice–Chairpersons.

✴ **Reservation to Paharis and Paddaris–** The Tribal Affairs Ministry introduced the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha that proposes to amend The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989 to include **4 new communities,** namely "Gadda Brahmin", "Koli", "Paddari Tribe", and "Pahari Ethnic Group" in the list of STs in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

✴ **Aspirational Blocks Programme Module**

✴ **iGOT Karmayogi Bharat** in partnership with NITI Aayog, has launched a new learning module dedicated to the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).

✴ The Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) portal is an online learning platform that owns all the **Digital Learning Resources** to be used in the capacity building process.

✴ **Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0**

✴ Recently, the IGMS 2.0 of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) was launched.

✴ It is a **Public Grievance Portal** and a major upgradation of Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal using Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning in terms of its capabilities.

✴ **ENCORE Software–** ENCORE (Enabling Communications on Real–time Environment) is an in–house software designed by the Election Commission of India for candidate and election management.

✴ **AAINA Dashboard–** The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** recently launched the **'AAINA Dashboard for Cities'** portal www.aaina.gov.in for comparing similarly placed Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and promoting peer learning amongst ULBs.

✴ The Government of India has decided to include **Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages in India** under the New Education Policy. There are officially under the Eighth schedule of the Indian Constitution, classical languages are Tamil, Sanskrit, Odia, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Pali and Prakrit.

✴ **Republic Day 2026–**

✴ President of France visited India as a chief guest on the occasion of Republic Day.

✴ During the traditional parade, various tableaux of the Ministry of Culture on the theme 'Mother of Democracy' got the first prize.

✴ Awards in Judges' Choice Category: Odisha got the 1st prize

✴ Awards in Popular Choice Category: Gujarat's Jhanki got the 1st prize